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SPEECH,

271

ON THE BILL

"FOR THE RELIEF OF JEFFERSON COLLEGE,"

DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

OF THE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

DECEMBER, 1830,

BY JOHN F. H. CLAIBORNE,

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COUNTY OF ADAMS.

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Claiborne said he was astonished, that a motion for indefinite postponement should have been made by the gentleman from Hinds. That gentleman (*Mr. Conant*) had enjoyed all the advantages of a liberal education, and been raised in a state which had made the patronage of letters a part of its earliest policy; and yet, he is unwilling to extend these advantages to the rising generation of his adopted country. Deplorable indeed, must be the fate of this bill, when the first opposition emanates from a source of so much excellence, but of such determined hostility. Sir, said Mr. Claiborne, I would shrink from the defence of this bill, if the convictions of my judgment, and the warmest feelings of my heart, were not involved. I know that I am addressing the pre-conceived opinions, perhaps the *prejudices* of this House; but Sir, there is a patriotism *here*, that would sacrifice the last remnant of personal popularity to promote the public good; and while this feeling predominates, the friends of this bill will never despair.

This Sir, is the first of a series of steps, that we must take in the pursuit of our common prosperity. It throws into *immediate*, not prospective operation, a system of DOMESTIC EDUCATION, which we must sooner or later adopt. A system as closely connected with our social happiness, as controlling in its influence over our moral obligations, and as much a part of our national existence as the code of laws under which we live. It is of more importance to have an efficient and well regulated system of education, than a system of jurisprudence, if indeed, one could exist to the utter exclusion of the other. It is a circumstance peculiar to the present age, that all the received systems of morals and science are built upon the *truths of Revelation*; and virtue and philosophy are now, in a great degree, synonimous with christianity, in the general acceptation of the term. From the first epoch of the Pagan philosophy, down to the present time, the world has been filled with speculations and theories, plausible because founded upon assumed *data*, but adverse to those great principles of revealed religion, upon which, the philosophy of NEWTON was based. The false doctrines, with which all Europe had been infected, fell one by one before the strength of *his* intellect; and if after the lapse of successive centuries, they have been revived, to poison the moral atmosphere with their noxious exhalations, they will soon wither and fade, and decay before the sunbeams of truth. The great end and intent of all human science, at the present day, is to prepare us for the better discharge of our duty in this world, that we may deserve the reward of good actions in a future state of existence. This is the foundation of all education; and I repeat, that it would be easier for any number of individuals, instructed on this principle, to preserve the social relations *without positive laws*, than for an association of men, entirely ignorant, or raised in the Athenian philosophy, to live amicably, under the most rigid laws—even if they were written, like the statutes of Draco, in *letters of blood*. In vain Sir, may you pass laws to restrain the vicious propensities of man—in vain, may you hold out inducements to be virtuous, in the shape of rewards and punishments—in vain, may you legislate for the happiness of society, if you leave the human mind uncultivated. But, Mr. Speaker, these are apothegms that few will dispute, and it is idle to repeat them. The question I wish to discuss is not the utility of education; but the *expediency* of adopting a system of DOMESTIC EDUCATION, and its *absolute necessity* in a free government.

I trust Sir, it will not be considered indelicate to remark, that the eastern counties, owing to their sparse population and the general sterility of the soil, can never be expected to support a large and well attended seminary of learning. I by no means design Sir, to make reflections upon these gallant and hospitable people. With so many examples around me, it is superfluous to say, that they have already given to the country, men whose talents, integrity and private virtues, would adorn any community. Take them Sir, collectively, and there is not a purer, a more orthodox and independent body of republicans on earth; and the bones that bleach on our southern frontier, prove how faithfully many of them have lived and *died* for their country, There is not a family on the banks of the Pearl, or in the wide-spread barrens of the Leaf or the Pascagoula, which would not offer a welcome reception to the passing traveller. It is this spirit of hospitality in peace, and of gallantry in war, which has exalted the social qualities of the American character, and borne the bannered eagle of our country, in triumph over the land and the waters. Far be it from me then, Mr. Speaker, entertaining these sentiments and knowing that they are cherished, warmly cherished, in the county I have the honor to represent—far be it from me, to make any reflections on our eastern brethren. But Sir, it is nevertheless true, that they will not be able to support such an Institution as the rising generation and the future destinies of our state demand. Where then, will they educate their sons—sons, who with proper opportunities may rise to the highest honors of the country, and shed lustre on the great confederation of letters? Will you send them to Europe, to study lessons of morality and patriotism in the courts of kings? Will you teach them to bow before the alters of despotism, and chase the gilded phantoms that flit among the ruins of the British Constitution? Alas! few countries ever presented a more melancholy aspect, in a season of profound peace, than England

at this present moment; but the ruin of countries, which pretend to be free, is not visible upon the surface of affairs; it lies buried in the heart of the land, amid the obscure circles of society, where scrutiny seldom penetrates. Great men and aristocratic splendor, are the vapors which conceal the deep, low marshes of misery; disperse the gloom and you will find the peasant cheating his appetite with a crust, and the mechanic deploring in secret, the insufficiency of his industry, to supply the necessaries of life. Visit with me, Sir, the prisons of Newgate, and mark the unhappy victims, that a partial system of legislation and an unwise and oppressive political economy, have driven from their honest callings, to the highway and the gibbet. Witness the horrible depravity in the purlieus of London and the corrupting taint—the desolating profligacy that prevails in the higher circles of society, assuming a darker and a darker shade as you ascend, until all distinctions are lost in the deep, unbroken gloom, that envelopes the THRONE, without one ray of light, one solitary redeeming virtue. Witness all this, and then *tell* me, Mr. Speaker, if England with her violated constitution—her profligate king—her mercenary nobility—her pampered hierarchy and her starving population, be a proper atmosphere for the growth of moral habits or the culture of republican principles? Send them to struggling Ireland—send them to resuscitated France, that they may learn what human nature can suffer, and what uproused patriotism can achieve, rather than to a country where the very faculties of men are becalmed with the sluggish mass of corruption, by which their rights and privileges are overwhelmed and crushed down to the earth.

Where then, Sir, let me again inquire, where are you to educate your sons? Will you send them to the cities and colleges of the eastern states? Will you transport them to the mines of *other* countries to dig for *fossils*, while the brightest and richest *gems* are scattered over *your own?* Will you drag them from their native soil, to grow up sickly exotics in a northern hot-house? Send them to the North and you change their habits; you tear away all those strong associations of childhood, those feelings and affections, that vegitate only under the parental roof. You give a new tendency to character, perhaps a worse destiny to your child. A boy of vigorous mind, of rugged, unvarnished and uncompromising disposition, may profit under this system of foreign education; but the great majority of youth would return home, with new prejudices and perverted morals, just qualified to strut upon the stage and sprout and rot with the mass of human vegetables, which have run to seed before them. Sir, I do not wish to alarm parental sensibilities; but in nine cases out of ten, the dissipated circle of students at the eastern colleges, the "Knights of the Round Table" and the gentlemen of the "Fancy" are made up of the sons of southern planters, who have been compelled, by the parsimonious policy of their own states, to send them abroad, and from a mistaken affection, furnish them with an allowance of from five hundred to a thousand dollars *per annum*. Sobriety and industry are not to be expected in a youth of eighteen, suddenly removed from the solitude of a country residence and from the elbow chair of a father or mother, to the company of a hundred volatile young men, who teach him, that his tutors are tyrants and disobedience a virtue.—Prompted by that innate dread of control, which prevails in every breast, the temptation becomes too strong and he soon musters under the standard of rebellion. There is too, Mr. Speaker, in all colleges, a species of vampyre, that attach themselves to the southern youth—not like the fabulous monster, feeding on human blood; but equally voracious in opening the veins and arteries of the PURSE. It comes in the garb of friendship—studies the disposition of its subject and whether his propensities lead him to the gambling table or to the more serious meditations of the closet, still does this vampyre cling to its deluded victim, until it gorges the last cent, either by some well turned trick at cards or under the more fascinating name of *benevolence!* Thus Sir, is it with the southern youth: Turned adrift from the quiet haven into the tempestuous seas, richly freighted, but with no steersman at the helm, is it strange that they should founder among the breakers? Is it singular, that the syren song should allure them, until they are lost on *Scylla* and *Charybdis*, the pleasures and the poisons, which float together on the ocean of life? But Sir, why are the *New England* youth, exempt from these dangers? Why are *they* not liable to such excesses? Sir, they grow up in their native atmosphere, with the influence of their laws, their customs, their religion, their local history, parental authority, and perhaps, still more tender associations concentrated upon them.—They breathe the air that their fathers inhaled—tread upon the ground, that is consecrated by their blood, and are admonished to virtue and fame by the epitaphs upon their tombs. Who would look for treason on the plains of Lexington, or for cowardice on Bunker's hill? Who would visit the Rock of Plymouth—the Ararat of modern times—the first resting place of the boldest body of men that ever lived—the only set of men on earth, who having fought for liberty became fugitives for conscience-sake—who would visit this memorable monument, to find the friends of despotism in church and state? Who would search the streets of Charleston, through which, the crackling flames and the shouts of an infuriated soldiery once resounded, for the enemies of our country? Mr. Speaker, these are the scenes and recollections, that shine around the New England youth, even in the cradle It is under such influences that they "live, and move, and have their being." It is this, which has stamped integrity, economy and patriotism, firm as the Rock of Gibraltar, upon the New England character. It is this, which has made the descendants of the Pilgrims celebrated throughout the world, for an intrepidity which never hesitates on the "tented field, or the crested wave," and an *enterprize*, which scorning difficulties, pauses only to obey the impulses of humanity. It is this *amor patriæ*—this sacred love of country—these strong personal attachments and early associations, which have fashioned the character of New England into its present enviable shape; enables her to array the talents, that sleep in every circle of society, and bring all her forces into the war of reason. Without these feelings, *local* though they be, the spirit of virtue and of patriotism, cannot absorb the more nefarious passions of the human heart. Let us look for one moment, Mr. Speaker, to Female character in our country, for an example. The daughters of America grow up to womanhood in the domestic circle. *Home* with all its endearments of father, mother,

brother, friend, cluster around their bosoms. They experience no other pleasures than such as spring up from the affections, and submit patiently to calamities, before which, the iron-soul of man would quail, while these are undisturbed. Leave her bower to bloom unvisited by stranger-hands, and there is not a more joyous, a more animated spirit. But break one single tie—snatch one little floweret that grows about her heart, and is cherished by its warmth, and the aspen-form of woman will shrink, withering from the touch, and fade away, like shadows upon the water. Where Sir, where do you find such a treasury of bright intelligences, of sweet and etherialized spirits, the fountains of moral light, the preservatives of social virtue and the emblems of a more perfect and enduring happiness? Other lands have given to the world, genius, and poetry, and philosophy, in the form of woman. Descending from those illustrious females that have moved in the most elevated spheres of human action—I might refer to a De Genlis, a Moore, a Bailley, an Edgeworth, a Hemans—heroines who have toiled in the cause of virtue. We take up one of their volumes as we would the hand of an ancient friend, well assured, that there is nothing to contaminate, nothing that will not sanctify and cheer and strengthen. Like the hues of gold and purple, that sometimes fringe a stormy cloud, they shed a redeeming light on the chaotic mass of scepticism and false philosophy, with which, the literature of all ages has been polluted. But, Mr. Speaker, rich as is the casket of their fame, and strong as are their claims upon the admiration of mankind, how inferior when compared with the generous philanthropy, the moral heroism, the self-devotion of an untitled and obscure daughter of Massachusetts. I allude, Sir, to one, who in the bloom of life and the pride of beauty—fragile as a lily but pure as its essence—divorced herself from the ties of kindred and of country, and went, amidst the ascending prayers of multitudes, to encounter the unrelenting despotism of India—to suffocate in the *putrid* atmosphere of Juggernaut—to drag out a painful existence in Burmese dungeons, and to *die*, by degrees, in a land of pestilence, that she might plant the cross of Christ and sprinkle the waters of life on that dark and bloody shore! This, Sir, was the triumph of christian faith—*the fruit of domestic education!* If it can inspire the soft and shrinking sensibilities of woman with so much fortitude, what must be its effects on a masculine bosom?

But, Sir, I pass from this part of my subject, to consider, very briefly, the influence of letters on national prosperity, in its connection with those fundamental principles of civil liberty, upon which, the American government is based. In every society where the laws of *meum* and *tuum* are accurately defined, if ignorance pervades the people, none but violent government can obtain. The furious and insatiable passions, avarice and ambition, rush into every state where property has entered. Security in the enjoyment of property is utterly incompatible with general ignorance in a community; no nation that has ever existed can furnish an exception to this proposition. In pastoral countries, where governments are for the most part patriarchal, and where lands are occupied in common, ignorance is not an evil of so much magnitude; but as nations advance in the arts of civilization, unless useful knowledge be generally circulated, the *larger* portion of mankind will always fall a prey to the fraud and chicanery of the *smaller*; and government must settle down on an arbitrary basis. The republic of Venice, *as she was* before the wars of Napoleon, illustrates this position.—"Standing immoveable upon the waters from which her palaces emerge," with a territory of only a few square miles, she escaped the havoc of centuries and saw kingdom after knigdom swept from the nations of the earth. She saw the power of Pisa, her most formidable rival, destroyed at one blow by the Genoese fleet, in the year 1284, and Genoa itself, completely eclipsed by the blaze of Venetian glory in the fifteenth century. She for a long time monopolised the *carrying trade* of Europe and the commerce of the Levant; her voice was heard in every cabinet, and the most remote nations acknowledged her supremacy in the arts. And yet, the great body of her population were peasants, debased by servitude, immersed in ignorance and compelled to pay homage to their rich and powerful lords. These however, were the *Mecœnas*' of the age and men of letters themselves; and it is to this *enlightened* aristocracy, which to hereditary power appears to have joined hereditary genius and a talent for government, which descended like a vested right, through successive generations, that all her wealth, her fame and her power are attributable. No example in history is more pregnant with instruction, than this. On the one hand, it shews how dangerous it is to the liberties of a people, to restrict learning to a favored few; and on the other, how high the distinction a nation may acquire, even when the public mind is partially cultivated.

From the dissolution of the Roman Empire, Europe sunk in ignorance, superstition, devotion to priests and attachment to particular families, was the sport of despotism; and history, from that time to the present, is a mere epitome of the efforts of growing knowledge, to regain what had been usurped in the weak moments of human nature. The revival of learning shocked the Feudal System (which had fastened a military despotism upon the world, during the middle ages) and opened the way to those great acquisitions of civil liberty, that have been subsequently made. Its severe exactions were first mitigated in England, where the lamp of knowledge burned, dimly indeed, but with a clearer light than in any other part of Europe; and these concessions have continued, in one unbroken series, from age to age, in proportion to the progress of science. Take, for instance, England and France, the two most enlightened nations of Europe. In the former, where the science of government was early made a study, few of the obnoxious features of the Feudal System have appeared since the famous *Magna Charta*; and none, since the no less celebrated act of *Habeas Corpus*. While in France, amercements, forfeitures, reliefs, baronial jurisdiction and the arbitrary connection between lord and vassal, existed until a late day, were deeply ingrafted in the jurisprudence of the country, and contributed, mainly, to that Revolution, which at one time, threatened to sweep away all the bulwarks of society, but eventually secured a portion of liberty to the French people. Indeed, this contrast, in the political situation, of the two rival nations is visible as far back as the days of Edward III. and Philip of Valois, when the Feudal System prevailed over the best part of Europe, in its utmost rigor. The celebrated victories of Cressy, Poictiers and Agincourt, where the Eng-

ish triumphed over all the disadvantages of numbers and position, have been justly ascribed to the freedom of their constitution and the superior political condition of the people. "It was not the nobility of England nor the feudal tenants, that achieved these battles; but the *yeomanry*, who drew the bow with strong and steady hands, accustomed to its use in their native fields and rendered fearless by personal competence and civil freedom." In England, at that time, tenures in *burgage* and *free-socage* were common; but in France, there was no intermediate class between the *knights* and the *gens potestatis* or villians, as they were commonly denominated. Even at that remote day, precarious and shadowy as English liberty appears, each individual felt his own importance, as a component part of the nation, and considered himself of more weight, in the scale of humanity, than the slave against whom he fought. How far this rational principle would prevail over mere animal courage, and has contributed to form the national characteristics of the two nations, is too much in the nature of a philosophical enquiry, to suit the present occasion. But I might follow it in the success, which has uniformly attended the English arms, when exerted in a righteous cause; and in the disasters they have experienced, when their armies were heartless and composed of foreign subsidies and dissolute recruits—not as they were, in the wars of the Black Prince and Marlborough, of the "bone and muscle" of the country.

Fortunately for us, Mr. Speaker, our ancestors brought with them, the books, the sciences, and that love of liberty, which in every age, has distinguished the mass of the English people; and at the onset of the revolution, these lights and predilections were generally diffused. We came to the contest, with enlightened minds. The rights of man were well understood. Lordship and vassalage were unknown, and the Feudal prerogative had never been acknowledged among us, except so far as its principles had descended through the broad channel of the common law. America had been colonized at an eventful period of the world, when a free enquiry was making into the principles of government. The human mind emerging from the veil, that superstition had thrown around it, was rapidly recovering its natural elasticity, and began to discard the received doctrines of Papal infallibility, passive obedience and the divine right of kings. Patriots asserted the equality of man, the supremacy of the law and the unqualified responsibility of public agents, unappelled by the sentences of the Star-chamber, the dungeons of the Tower, or the more dreadful armory of the scaffold. Such were the men, the colleagues and disciples of a Hambden, a Pym, a Sydney and a Hollis—that peopled our country. The spirit of that Parliament, which extorted the *Petition of Rights* from Charles I., successfully resisted the illegal stretch of his prerogatives, and finally, drove him from the throne, was abroad in our land. Such a spirit and such a people, could not be subdued. We fought but to conquer. The colonial government fell to pieces, and like the palace of Aladin, a constitution rose upon its ruins, unequalled in the beauty of its symmetry, the simplicity of its structure and the magnificence of its design. It boomed upon the world, like a majestic vessel, rising on the swell of the ocean, pure as the atmosphere in which it floats, and comprehensive as the waves that sustain it. This stupendous fabric, Mr. Speaker—the emanation of moral and intellectual causes—the offspring of popular intelligence—remains to us, if not in its pristine strength, at least, in its original beauty. If one or more of its pillars have been torn away by those ambitious constructionists, who not satisfied with the *protection*, crave also the *power*, and *more* than the power of the constitution, still enough remains to make it the glory of *this* and the hope of all *future* ages.

Passing from these general remarks, I will now Mr. Speaker, call your attention to a part of my subject more familiar to me, and perhaps more interesting to the House.—By the most indefatigable exertions, the trustees of Jefferson College have succeeded in putting it in operation. Professors of great experience, talents and attainment are now presiding over it, with the brightest prospects of future usefulness. Military tactics so appropriately blended with the ordinary course of education at the Polytechnic schools of France, have been introduced and occupy those leisure hours, which at other institutions, are consumed in idle amusements and immoral associations. The constitution of the United States has wisely prohibited the establishment of *standing armies*, choosing to refer all disputes to the arbitration of the law. But in every government, *military science* should be cultivated as a means of improvement in peace and of protection in war. Accordingly the most renowned nations of Europe have established military schools, and this government, at an early period, imitated their example in locating the Academy at West Point. That this institution has been of much value in supplying us with engineers, and in enabling us to compete with those nations, that have converted war, from a system of indiscriminate slaughter, into a science, will not for a moment, be disputed. But how far its utility is diminished by the scruples of many as to its compatibility with our republican system—by a perversion of the purposes for which it was originally designed—by the abuses, said to exist in its municipal arrangements, and by its exclusion of any but Cadets from the army, is a question well worthy of investigation. Sir, I do not wish this Legislature to pass a vote of censure upon West Point; but I would ask, if an institution on the basis of Jefferson College, unconnected with the government and depending on its merits alone for patronage, is not to be preferred in a country like this, where the jealousy of the people is so properly directed towards any thing, that approximates to a distinction of ranks or an accumulation of power? Without being liable to the objections now making in all parts of the United States against West Point, an institution formed like ours, upon a union of the civil and military arts, will be productive of the greatest benefits. It would be an acquisition to any country and is peculiarly valuable, nay of *vital importance* in a state, where there is a servile population now so large, and which is annually increasing with alarming rapidity. Sir, I could dwell upon this part of my subject, until the mother would shudder and hug her infant more closely to her bosom. Had I that eloquence which shakes the soul, I would speak daggers to your apprehensions—paint a scene so dark and gory, that the currents of the stoutest hearts would freeze. But Sir, the curtain must remain undrawn; and though we stand on concealed fires and are stooping over a volcano, which is ready to belch up its lava, you

dare not Mr. Speaker, raise a warning voice. It is a subject upon which, the public mind is awfully sensitive and involves a feeling of concentrated horror, that beggars all description. But Sir, how invaluable, in this view of the case would be a body of young men or even one single individual, capable of rallying a disordered multitude and leading it to the charge! Our only safety in such an exigency, would be a well trained body of officers, able to discipline the militia. The law requires the commissioned officers to instruct their men; but how can this be done, when they are themselves entirely ignorant of military tactics? They cannot acquire this knowledge, without renouncing for a time, the business of life and few men are able to do this. The consequence is, that your militia is badly trained—the officers are unable to drill their troops and your annual musters are almost useless. Satisfied of this fact, several states have abolished military trainings altogether; they have laid the axe at the root of the tree, when they should have applied a remedy. How different will it be Sir, when a hundred young men, thoroughly instructed in the science of war, are distributed through the state? Born among us, possessing the same interests, the same deep and hallowed reverence for whatever concerns the prosperity or [illegible] sippi, they will naturally seek promotion, through its legitimate channels. The militia of our state, will then present a better aspect and be a stronger bulwark of defence. Mr. Speaker, I am by no means the advocate of military power. I shudder at the details of blood and carnage and human suffering, that make up the biography of heroes and at the homage which mankind is disposed to pay to those who have butchered for immortality. The Praetorian bands of Rome and the *janizaries of modern times*—alternately the instruments of protection and oppression—still live on the page of history, to exemplify the danger of military power, when vested in a distinct body of men. But when the PEOPLE themselves, are instructed in the art of war and constitute the soldiers of their country, no evils are to be apprehended. On the contrary Sir, it will be the strongest check on military despotism. Make every man, who understands his constitutional rights, a soldier—instruct him in the principles of war, and put a musket in his hands—my life for it Sir, the liberties of our country will never be successfully assailed by the arm of ambition. Cæsar prevailed at the battle of Pharsalia, by the force of *discipline*; and it was afterwards, an easy matter to conquer a nation of slaves. But if every man had been a soldier—*such as the Republic boasted in her best days, when all her citizens were soldiers*, the dagger of Brutus would never have been polluted with the blood of a tyrant, and Rome might still have been the mistress of the world! It is only when military knowledge is confined by governmental provisions, to a select class of society, that it becomes dangerous to the commonwealth. The *game laws* of England have done more to check the progress of that government towards liberalism, than all the encroachment ever made by the House of Tudor upon the rights of the people. Those laws have *disarmed* the *many* to *arm* the *few*. It is in this way, that tyrants may claim to act by *permissive right* [illegible] cannot exist, unless the constitut[illegible]ruption of the [illegible] Napoleon came into existance and thus, for ages to come, will [illegible] scourges be turned loose upon the world. The diffusion of military knowledge among all orders—the free offering [illegible] to the poor as well as to the rich, is the chief merit of the Institution, I have attempted to defend. The [illegible] of Jefferson College will go forth, not indeed like the Cadets of West Point, with *exclusive* claims upon the patronage of the government, nor with a titular dignity to place them above the mass of mankind; but with qualifications to excel in all the departments of life. They will carry with them a military spirit controlled by a salutary sense of subordination to the laws; a capacity to develope the latent resources of our state; a just and laudable ambition for promotion in their various pursuits and in fine, a love of learning, of virtue and of country, which will be felt in every circle of society. They are destined to supply us with the *material* of moral greatness and give tone and polish to the character of the state. A few years hence, Mr. Speaker, and the students of Jefferson College will people this hall. *We* shall have passed from this scene of life to oblivion and the grave, and *they* will be the guardians of the state, sitting [illegible] now are, in judgment upon its destinies. Shall we pay no respect to our future legislators and our future magistrates? Shall we refuse those privileges which they now claim as a *favor*, [illegible] which they will shortly demand as a *right*? Shall we do nothing to conciliate the favorable [illegible] of those [illegible] few years [illegible] petition, strong in youthful energy and cultivated intellect?

Mr Speaker, I have trespassed on your patience, but this is a sacred cause. In vain shall we toil for the public service, if we neglect this auspicious [illegible] the principles of liberty. They can only grow in intellectual soil. Set your faces against this bill from local considerations or from calculations of profit and loss, and you inflict a wound upon the future prosperity of the state, which no [illegible] balsam can heal. It makes no difference, at what point in our limits, the standard of literature is planted. The mighty stream that washes our shore, rises in the far-off north, and yet Sir, if you had the power, would you absorb its waters and drive back its course? Will this bill be rejected, because the college [illegible] in the [illegible] Sir, the fountain is stationary, but its fertilizing streams will flow in every direction. It will enrich the prairies of Yazoo and the valleys of the Pearl; it will shine as brightly on the banks of the Tombigbee as on the cliffs of the Mississippi. Recollect Sir, we are legislating for posterity. Future generations are embraced in this bill. Will you shut them out from the porticoes of science? Will you compel them to live in an intellectual desart, the creatures of passion and the victims of ambition? Or will you, by the judicious relinquishment of a few thousand dollars, refine, adorn, elevate the rising generation? Are you the enemies of your children? Will you rob them of the literature they possess, and rival the vandalism, that despoiled the Roman temples? Will you destroy the fluted columns and sculptured fragments, which have escaped the ravages of time? Sir, you may reject this bill—you may raze Jefferson College to its foundations, and exult over its ruins; and you may acquire immortality by the deed; but it will be the immortality of the *Ephesian incendiary*? You may

...the Indian torch to the Alexandrian li... ...every journalist will blush with shame. I can... ...anticipate such a result from this enlight... ...and at a moment, when the voice of joy and ... is singing over valley and hill. By the wise and ... policy of the present administration, we have just ... fourteen millions of acres, and the cities of an en... ...terprising population are pouring in upon us. The ... knife of the savage is forever broken, and the bloody track of the moccasin, will no longer startle us on our path. Our march is onward; and nothing but a liberal system of legislation is wanting, to render Mississippi, so rich in territory, so beneficent in climate, pre-eminent in power, and famous in history.

Postal Office, Washington, Miss.